

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 690 without my signature.

I vetoed similar legislation previously. As I stated before, it is unnecessary to statutorily authorize a person to attend a board meeting in the absence of an ex-officio member since the meetings are open to anyone from the public to attend and provide comment.

Moreover, ex officio members serve by virtue of their experience and qualifications in sharing their perspective on issues impacting higher education. Allowing these members to appoint a substitute to attend in their absence creates a disincentive for the member to actually attend the meetings, and diminishes the value of an ex-officio member's contribution to the public discourse.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger